

• Abroad •

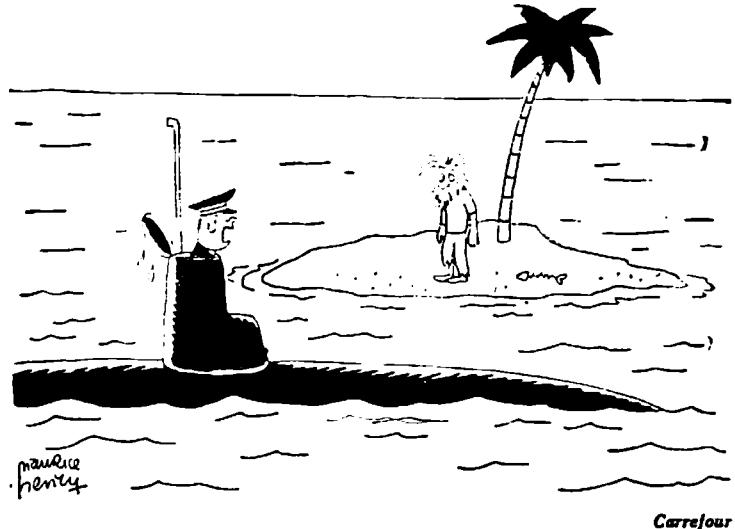
Zurich. The first Congress of the International Association Against Noise met recently to coordinate the work of national affiliates that have sprung up during the past few years. The most active is the French League Against Noise, organized by Professor Tremolières, which publishes a bulletin entitled—naturally—*Silence*, and campaigns for reduction of all public noises from trucks to portable radios. A just published book, *Noise*, by René Chocholle, director of the National Center for Scientific Research, proves the relevance of the anti-noise movement. Investigation has shown that the noises of modern big cities (buses, subways, trucks, construction, etc.) are well above the traumatic level. A well-known insurance company found that soundproofing their offices brought a 52 per cent reduction in employee mistakes and a 35 per cent improvement in health. Excessive noise can cause or provoke heart attacks, migraine, urinary and endocrine disorders and "nervous breakdown." It has been proved that noise is often the cause of marital squabbles and anger in general, and that murders are almost never committed in a context of silence. As a first small victory for the French League, France has passed a law providing stiff fines for playing portable radios in a public vehicle.

Leopoldville. Although the Communists are not yet strongly established in the Congo, they have been stepping up activity in preparation for the independence that began July 1. As in the case of France-Algeria, the native Congolese Communist movement is a colonial offshoot of the party in the home country. Jean Terfve, a member of the Belgian party's political bureau, along with a cadre from the Belgium Young Communist League, was on hand for the election campaign, and set up liaison with a number of Congolese political groups. In April, Alphonse Nguvulu, president of the People's Party, was a star guest at the 13th Congress of the Belgian Communist Party, held at Liège. Nguvulu pledged his solidarity and his Marrian outlook. In a reply published in the official Belgian Communist newspaper, its editor, Pierre Joye, indicated a prime objective for the post-independence phase: to persuade the Congo to follow the example of "Egypt, Iraq, India, Indonesia and Guinea [which] have got credits [and technical aid] from the USSR and the peoples' democracies, and have been very well satisfied therewith."

Paris. At the end of May the strategy of the FLN terror inside France made an abrupt shift. In the past the thousands of attacks have had clear specific motivation: against Arabs in France who do not support and pay tribute to the FLN, political figures (Moslem or non-Moslem) who oppose Algerian independence, police and security officials; or to stage spectacular acts of sabotage (factory arson, railroad wrecks, etc.). Many of the attacks of the past month have been without specific motivation—"blind" or "pure" according to the con-

ception of Nechayev and the nineteenth-century nihilists, applied for some time in Algeria itself. Storekeepers, businessmen, chance passers-by have been shot (usually with 9 mm. Berettas and automatics) or stabbed at random. Some analysts believe this shift foreshadows random bombing of cafés, theaters or the Opéra.

Dakar. On June 20 the Federation of Mali (Senegal + Sudan) became an independent state, and applied for UN membership. Mali is one of the most promising of the new African nations, primarily because blessed with two seemingly responsible leaders—Leopold Senghor of Senegal and Modibo Keita of Sudan—who are European in training and culture, opposed to the Balkanization of Africa, determined to keep within the French Community, and anxious to preserve the excellent relations between native Africans and Europeans, 40,000 of whom are in Senegal and 25,000 in Dakar, West Africa's major port, which now becomes the Federation's capital city.



"Need anything?"

Tiko, Cameroons. The first commercial use of vehicles propelled by "air cushion" is expected to be under way before the end of the year. "Cushioncraft," made by the British firm of Britten-Norman, will carry one-ton loads of bananas from the interior to this West African port. Operating at 40 miles per hour, 12 to 15 inches above the surface of either ground or water, the Cushioncraft will be able to use as highway a riverbed that is dry or partially dry much of the time, and will need only an hour and a half for a trip now taking two days or more. Damage to fruit in transit will be eliminated. If the experiment is successful, Cushioncraft with ten-ton capacity will be introduced, and will make possible the establishment of plantations in areas now inaccessible.

Moscow. Replying to an article by Alexander Marshak in *Life*, which stated that Russians were turning away from realist art, Vladimir Serov, head of the Russian Union of Artists, declared in *Pravda* that there are only four "modernist" or non-representational painters among Moscow's three thousand. "Our people," he commented, "ridicule abstractionism."

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